

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) A slider-loading mechanism for an optical drive, having a slider (2) which is fastened on a resilient arm (6) and is lowered onto the surface of an optical storage medium (8) and/or raised from the surface of the optical storage medium (8), and a loading element (4) separate from the resilient arm (6), the loading element (4) penetrating between the surface of the optical storage medium (8) and the resilient arm (6) and being actuated via a lever (3) for acting on the resilient arm (6) to lower and/or raise the slider (2), ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the lever (3) is actuated via a gear mechanism (5, 7) having a loading pin (7), which is provided with a gearwheel, and a rack (5), which is arranged in a displaceable manner and interacts with the gearwheel of the loading pin (7).
2. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a linear drive is provided for the rack (5).
3. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gearwheel of the loading pin (7) is actuated by moving the rack (5) relative to the gearwheel with the linear drive.
4. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1—3, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the gearwheel of the loading pin (7) is actuated by moving the gearwheel relative to the rack (5) using a rough tracking function.
5. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1—4, ~~characterized in that it further includes~~ claim 1, wherein displacement stops for the rack (5) for ensuring that the slider (2) is always lowered and/or raised in a reading/writing region of the storage medium (8).

6. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1—5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the lowered position the resilient arm (6) is not in contact with the loading element (4).
7. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1—6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein it further includes an adjusting means for adjusting the prestressing of the resilient arm (6).
8. (currently amended) A unit for reading from and/or writing to optical recording media, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it has a slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1—7~~ claim 1.